



**Virginia Indian Advisory Board
Recognition Workgroup
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Monday, June 6, 2022

Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Location: Virtual – Webex

Committee Members Present:

**Buck Woodard
Brad Hatch
Pam Ross
Greg Smithers**

Committee Members Absent:

None

Non-Members in Attendance: (note members of the public)

**Chief Terry Price
Gary Price
Annette Price
Pamela D'Angelo
Brandon Custalow**

Committee Business: (what was discussed) new business, existing initiatives, general discussion, etc.

- Old Business

- **David Cornsilk has had to step down from his role due to family issues.**
- **Memo to Wolf Creek petitioner regarding the deficiencies, request for additional materials, etc. sent from Sec. of Commonwealth on May 20, 2022. 30-day timeline for petitioner response. May request more time, if needed.**
- **Discussion of May 20 VIAB meeting from Buck. Discussion of David Cornsilk's departure and whether a new genealogist would be needed. Not clear on what will come of this yet. Request for somebody to take minutes, but there has been no movement on that from VIAB yet.**
- **Question from Greg of whether we need a genealogist for compliance purposes. Buck suggests that it might be good if questions come up later in the process regarding genealogy, particularly as they relate to new documents that might surface. But, he also suggests that we move forward on this criterion.**
- **Approval of May 16 minutes. Buck moves to accept minutes, Pam seconds. Motion carries.**



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- Next VIAB meeting on June 20. Likely will have to wait until then to know about new genealogist member of workgroup.
- **New Business**
 - Discussion of Criterion 6. Reading of criterion and document suggestions for criterion published on Secretary of Commonwealth's website.
 - **Buck:** Group discussed this being about business organization/paperwork and their membership being genealogically descended, along with formal organization and tribal roll. Thought it mentions historical tribe, this is not the focus of this criterion. Says that the descent portion of this criterion was added on as a higher bar, but originally this was just about incorporation and organization.
 - **Pam:** Agrees with Buck's assessment.
 - **Greg:** What is a base roll? Was there one presented?
 - Discussion of evidence for Criterion 6 provided by petitioner.
 - **Greg:** Disconnect between incorporation documents and who is allowed to be in the group. Issue with people born in Commonwealth due to diaspora. The petitioner can refer back to numerous lists dating back to the 18th century since Cherokee were keeping records as far back as that time regarding census rolls. So, there will be potentially a good deal of information to pull from. Eastern Cherokee and Cherokee maintain lists of fraud groups, including some VA groups that have petitioned as Cherokee.
 - **Pam:** What is the base roll? Membership states Cherokee people born in Commonwealth. Do you have to be related to somebody born in Commonwealth or do you have to be born in Commonwealth? Base roll should be provided, so we don't have to make assumptions. A narrative could help with the names being different on the state corporation commission paperwork and the gap between bylaws being signed and incorporation.
 - **Buck:** Is the base roll the genealogical chart? But who are the Cherokee descended people on this chart? We don't want to be presumptive about picking them out. May need to be adjustments in bylaws about birth in Commonwealth. Quality of base rolls vary across Virginia Indian tribes and many have had to be reconstructed. Doesn't necessarily have to be one list, but must have a justification for why a certain list is used as the base roll. Base rolls can be 20th century pulling from multiple documents, and are for several Virginia tribes. Names on state corporation papers that are not on the rolls. What is the relationship of the community to the people on the state corporation commission papers? Recurring pattern of small pockets of Cherokee petitioners in Virginia, are there relationships to



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petitioning group? Inclined to accept Criterion 6 with some small tweaks and providing a base roll.

- **Brad:** Tweak bylaws with regard to birth in Commonwealth. Also inconsistency with number of council members that are supposed to be appointed and how many are actually appointed.
 - **Buck:** Process on creating another letter. Will likely not be as long as first because general recommendations are mostly in first letter. Send Criterion 6 write up to Buck so he can incorporate into this letter. Another 30-day period for response for second letter. Anticipating final report around August.
 - **Brandon:** Have reached out to genealogists, but VIAB has to vote on that. Workgroup can continue to move forward, but genealogist is required, so be wary that expertise of that person might be needed.
- **Public comment**
 - **Chief Terry Price:** Have not received a letter yet. Did not agree with Cornsilk, but looks forward to working with another person.
 - **Annette Price:** David Cornsilk prejudiced the opinion of the board. Please come visit the Wolf Creek Tribal Center.
 - **Gary:** Well known that Cornsilk is biased against state tribes.
 - **Pamela D'Angelo:** Question about whether meetings are recorded, and would like them recorded.
 - **Announcements and polling for next meeting**
 - **Next Meeting Thursday, July 14 6-8 PM**
 - **Meeting adjourned 7:17 pm**